

IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

An Independent Agency of the Executive Branch

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To: Administration & Regulation Appropriations Committee
From: Megan Tooker
Date: January 24, 2011
Re: Fiscal Year 2013

1. Governor's recommendation

The Governor's recommendation for the Board is \$510,000. The General Assembly appropriated \$475,000 for FY2012 and \$537,256 for FY2011. The Board requests \$510,000 for FY2013 to allow it to properly classify its auditors as "field auditors." Historically, the Board's auditors have been classified as "field auditors." The auditor positions were recently downgraded to "accountant/auditor 1" as a result of budget cuts and SERIP responsibilities. The Board believes the "field auditor" classification more accurately reflects the important duties of its auditors. A higher classification will result in less staff turnover and therefore better responsiveness to the regulated community.

2. Staffing

The Board currently has a director/legal counsel, a clerk specialist and two auditors. A third auditor position is open and will be filled in the coming weeks. The Board believes it will be more likely to retain high quality auditors for a greater period of time if its auditors are properly classified as "field auditors."

The Board pays approximately \$50,000 annually for SERIP payments and insurance for three SERIP retirees.

3. Campaign disclosure audits

The Board's auditors continue to work through a backlog of unaudited reports. Significant progress is being made and the Board anticipates meeting its goal of 75% of reports audited within one year by the end of 2012.

4. Information Technology

The Board is using its Innovations Fund to make upgrades to its electronic filing system, which will make the system more user-friendly. The Board has also recently revised its website and welcomes feedback.